

NEW YORK TIMES

APR 15 1964

CPYRGHT

FOIAb5

AIR GENERAL URGES MISSILE DEFENSES

An Air Force general who led a study of air defenses for the Pentagon called yesterday for improved defenses against both manned bombers and ballistic missiles.

Maj. Gen. Arthur C. Agan Jr. said that the United States greatest need was an area defense against intercontinental missiles.

"To me," he said, at an Air Force press briefing here, "the guy who first gets a defense against ballistic missiles is the one who will clearly ascend to the dominant military position."

Citing prospects for continued manned bomber threats, General Agan urged development of long-endurance airborne warning and control planes, an improved long-range interceptor and a dispersed ground-control system.

Asked if the Air Force was interested in the A-11, the 2,000-mile-an-hour experimental jet disclosed by President Johnson in February, General Agan replied, "It has the kind of capabilities we're asking for in a manned interceptor."

General Agan is commander of the 26th Air Division at Hancock Field, Syracuse. Last May a special study group on air defense, which he headed, submitted its report to Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

The briefing was held at the Air Force's information office at 663 Fifth Avenue.